

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING:

- Agricultural Prices ►Corn Chemical Use ►Cold Storage ►Farm Labor
- Milk Production ►Cattle on Feed ►Egg Production ►Slaughter

KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK PRICES STRONG

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for cattle and hogs while down for corn, soybeans and winter wheat.

Cattle and calf prices for mid-May were up. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$98.00 per cwt. for mid-May. This was up \$7.00 from April, \$20.00 from a year earlier and a record high. **Beef cow** prices averaged \$51.00 per cwt. for mid-month. This was up \$4.00 from April and \$10.00 from May 2003. The mid-month price was the highest since June 1991. **Calves** under 500 lbs. for mid-May averaged \$116.00 per cwt. This was up \$5.00 from April, \$25.00 from a year earlier and a record high.

Prices received for hogs and pigs were up from April. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-May averaged \$57.00 per cwt., up \$9.00 from a month earlier, up \$16.00 from May 2003 and the highest since July 1997. **Sows** at \$42.00 per cwt. were up \$3.00 from a month earlier and \$14.00 from a year earlier. Sow prices were at their highest since August 1997.

The **all milk** price for mid-May was \$22.20 per cwt., up \$5.50 from April and \$10.10 from a year earlier. The mid-month price was the highest on record. The previous high of \$18.70 per cwt. was established in January 1999.

Prices for corn and soybeans have turned downward after advancing in recent months. The **corn** price for mid-May was \$3.00 per bushel, down 9 cents from April while up 22 cents from May 2003. Before turning down, the price of corn had advanced for 6 consecutive months. The **soybean** price for mid-month was \$9.75 per bushel. This was down 7 cents from April while \$3.50 per bushel above a year earlier. The May price of \$9.82 per bushel was the second highest soybean price on record with the highest price being \$10.40 on June 1973. The **winter wheat** price was \$3.45 per bushel, down 9 cents from April while up 20 cents from May 2003.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 132, based on 1990-92=100, was 7 points (5.6 percent) above the April Index. This was the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index, also at a record high, increased 9 points (7.1 percent) from April while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, hogs, cattle, and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, eggs, corn, and tomatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples, and asparagus. The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 27 points (26 percent) from May 2003.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		MAY 2003	APR 2004	MAY 2004	MAY 2004
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.78	3.09	3.00	2.78
Soybeans b/	Bu.	6.25	9.82	9.75	9.60
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	3.25	3.54	3.45	3.64
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	110.00	100.00	100.00	109.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	64.00	58.00	64.00	74.90
All Hogs	Cwt.	40.50	47.60	56.40	57.80
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	41.00	48.00	57.00	58.50
Sows	Cwt.	28.00	39.00	42.00	43.10
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	69.10	80.40	86.70	88.40
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	78.00	91.00	98.00	92.60
Cows	Cwt.	41.00	47.00	51.00	52.40
Calves f/	Cwt.	91.00	111.00	116.00	122.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	12.10	16.70	22.20	20.30
Hog-Corn Ratios g/	Bu.	14.6	15.4	18.8	20.8

a/Preliminary. b/Includes contract sales paid during month. c/Includes yellow and white corn. d/"Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April, down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003. April 2003 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. April 2004 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,200 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	April 2003	March 2004	April 2004	April 04 % of	
				April 2003	March 2004
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,151	*2,107	1,957	91	93
Veal	16.0	*14.1	13.9	87	99
Pork	1,659	1,801	1,725	104	96
Lamb & Mutton	19.5	22.1	17.4	89	79
Total U.S.	3,846	*3,944	3,713	97	94
Total Kentucky	34.8	42.7	41.9	120	98

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. *Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. APRIL 2003 & 2004 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.6	1.4	1,400	1,183	891	862
Hogs	171.1	208.1	45,460	55,039	266	264
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	1.0	129	119	139	123
United States						
Cattle	2,966.1	2,698.5	3,586,024	3,238,123	1,209	1,200
Hogs	8,341.9	8,652.3	2,234,847	2,315,187	268	268
Sheep & Lambs	297.3	256.0	39,015	34,711	131	136

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2004, were greater than year earlier levels for frozen eggs, beef, orange juice, vegetables and potatoes.

All U.S. Warehouse Stocks				April 2004 as % of	
Commodity	April 30 2003	March 31 2004	April 30 2004	April 2003	March 2004
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	732,015	604,738	642,192	88	106
Turkey	573,466	504,561	540,637	94	107
Ducks	6,043	1,246	1,020	17	82
Total Frozen Poultry	1,311,524	1,110,545	1,183,849	90	107
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	389,653	416,772	421,855	108	101
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	48,542	50,126	46,109	95	92
Total Frozen Pork 1/	519,993	453,834	451,548	87	99
Total Meat 2/	926,776	885,846	887,427	96	100

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

APRIL ALL HIRED WAGE RATE HIGHER

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with

\$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 35,000 during the week of April 11-17, 2004. This compares to 29,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$9.06 per hour, up \$1.42 per hour from 2003. Field workers earned an average \$8.48 per hour compared to \$7.32 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$8.62 per hour, up \$1.38 per hour from a year ago.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

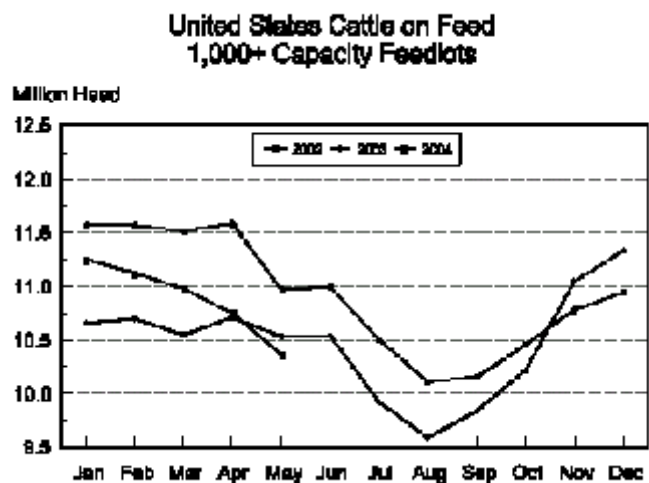
Kentucky milk production for April 2004 totaled 131 million pounds, down 4 percent from April 2003 but up 2 percent from March 2004. Average number of milk cows on farms at 110,000 head, was down 10,000 head from a year earlier but unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,190 pounds, up 50 pounds from April 2003, and up 15 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.6 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from

April 2003. March revised production, at 12.8 billion pounds, was down 1.7 percent from March 2003. The March revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,630 pounds for April, 3 pounds above April 2003. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 81,000 head less than April 2003, but 2,000 head more than March 2004.

U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.36 million head on May 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 2003 and 6 percent below May 1, 2002. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 14 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002. Net placements were 1.51 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 316,000, 600-699 pounds were 302,000, 700-799 pounds were 567,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 418,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.89 million, 5 percent below both 2003 and 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 97,000 during April, 54 percent above 2003 and 17 percent above 2002.



CORN: AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS, KENTUCKY, 2003 ^{1/}

Agricultural Chemical	Area Applied	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	(Percent)	(Number)	(Pounds per Acre)		(1,000 Lbs)
Herbicides:					
2,4-D	6	1.0	0.37	0.37	24
Acetochlor	6	1.0	1.59	1.59	120
Atrazine	81	1.0	1.32	1.43	1,358
Dicamba, Dimet, salt	4	1.0	0.08	0.08	4
Diflufenzopyr-	5	1.0	0.04	0.04	2
Glyphosate	24	1.1	0.82	0.90	251
Imazapyr	23	1.0	0.002	0.002	1
Imazethapyr	23	1.0	0.006	0.006	2
Mesotrione	10	1.0	0.12	0.12	15
Metolachlor	14	1.0	1.51	1.51	239
Nicosulfuron	16	1.0	0.02	0.02	4
Paraquat	16	1.0	0.42	0.43	78
Rimsulfuron	13	1.0	0.009	0.01	2
S-Metolachlor	16	1.0	1.28	1.37	261
Simazine	17	1.0	1.24	1.24	249
Insecticides:					
Bifenthrin	4	1.0	0.04	0.04	2
Lambda-cyhalothrin	3	1.0	0.03	0.03	1

^{1/}Planted acres in 2003 for Kentucky were 1.2 million acres.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 2003	April 2004	April '04 as % of April '03
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,187	7,343	102
Average Layers (000)	338,182	341,914	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,125	2,148	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	35,229	34,122	97
Chicks Hatched (000)	37,804	37,514	99
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	646,415	660,615	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	760,638	774,452	102

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>